

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nguyen et al.

Application No.: US national stage of PCT/IB2003/003654

Filed: concomitant Examiner: tbd

For: Protection of metal-based...

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

In claim 4, please delete "any preceding" and insert after "claim", --1--;

In claim 6, please delete "any preceding" and insert after "claim", --1--;

In claim 7, please delete "any preceding" and insert after "claim", --1--;

In claim 8, please delete "any preceding" and insert after "claim", --1--;

In claim 10, please delete "claim any preceding" and insert after "claim", --1--;

In claim 11, please delete "any preceding" and insert after "claim", --1--;

In claim 13, please delete "or 12";

In claim 15, please delete "any preceding" and insert after "claim", --1--;

In claim 16, please delete "any preceding" and insert after "claim", --1--;

In claim 17, please delete "any preceding" and insert after "claim", --1--;

In claim 18, please delete "any preceding" and insert after "claim", --1--;

In claim 21, please delete "any one of claims" and "to 20" and insert after "of", --claim--;